

**WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the Washington County Commission was called to order by Chairman James J. Eardley at 4:00 p.m. on June 17, 2014, in the Commission Chambers, Washington County Administration Building, St. George, Utah. Those in attendance were Chairman James J. Eardley, Commissioner Dennis Drake, Commissioner Alan Gardner, Administrator Dean J. Cox, Deputy County Attorney Eric Clarke, and Deputy County Clerk Christine S. Hall.

Commissioner Drake led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the Commission for approval. The Consent Portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any Commissioner wishes to remove an item from the Consent Portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the Regular Agenda.

- Consideration of Auditor-Approved Claims for Payment for June 4, 2014, through June 17, 2014
- Consideration of Administrative Adjustments: Real Property (attached)
- Consideration of Administrative Adjustments: Personal Property (attached)
- Consideration of Applications for Property Tax Abatement: Bettina Lindsey, S/N S-KIN-A-2

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Drake to Approve the Consent Agenda, with the Exception of Application for Property Tax Abatement Serial Number S-KIN-A-32, which is disallowed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gardner and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner, and Drake voting aye.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH / CAROL HOLLOWELL

Volunteer Center Director Carol Hollowell said that this will be her last Commission meeting as the Director. She will be assuming a new position with St. George City as Director of the Homeless Center in a new building (donated by the City of St. George). She will coordinate community volunteer programs in her new position. She thanked the Commission for its support during her tenure.

Ms. Hollowell presented William Spinney as the Volunteer of the Month. Mr. Spinney is a veteran who recently moved into the area. Despite personal struggles, Mr. Spinney has devoted himself to helping others.

The Commission thanked Ms. Hollowell for her years of service to the community and her work with the volunteers.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT / SHERIFF CORY PULSIPHER

No items were presented today.

CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE REQUESTS / MARK BLANCH

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Building Maintenance, slurry seal of Administration Building | |
| Parking Lot | \$ 13,094.00 |

All purchases are budgeted, bonded, or paid for through grant funds.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Gardner to Approve the Purchase Request as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Drake and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner, and Drake voting aye.

PRESENTATION OF HIS EXCEPTIONAL TEAMWORK AWARD TO WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY BROCK BELNAP

Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Hirschi also introduced Sgt. Johnny Heppler with the City of St. George Police Department who is his supervisor in the local task force to which they are both assigned. Agent Hirschi said that recently an awards ceremony was held in Denver to honor the creation of the Fraudulent Identity & Security Threat (FIST) concept. This has been a joint effort on the part of the City of St. George Police Department, the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and the Washington County Attorney's Office. Brock Belnap, Washington County Attorney, was unable to attend the ceremony in Denver, and Agent Hirschi said that his superiors wanted Mr. Belnap to be recognized for his invaluable participation in the FIST program's success. He said that Mr. Belnap excels at fostering successful partnerships among various law-enforcement agencies.

Mr. Belnap accepted the Exceptional Teamwork Award for the entire region, saying that this is a wonderful honor that he accepts on behalf of the entire law-enforcement community. He recognized in particular one of his deputy attorneys, Eric Gentry, who prosecutes most of the FIST cases, and also clarified that Sgt. Heppler is the individual who came up with the idea of FIST and has been instrumental in its success.

PRESENTATION: REPORT ON 2014 WASHINGTON COUNTY TAX SALE / KIM M. HAFEN

Washington County Clerk-Auditor Kim M. Hafen presented a list of 2014 Tax Sale Results from the tax sale that was held on May 29, 2014. Remaining on the tax sale list were fifteen (15) parcels out of an original number of four-hundred and forty-five (445) . Four (4) of those properties received no bids, and during the sale, two (2) of the buyers who bid on properties failed to perform. Six (6) parcels in all revert to the County, with nine (9) being sold. The Clerk's Office will ensure that appropriate deeds are conveyed to the successful bidders.

Mr. Hafen did a thorough and exhaustive job of attempting to locate property owners whose properties were in jeopardy of being sold and reaching an agreement for a tax payment program.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Gardner to Ratify the 2014 Washington County Tax Sale, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Drake and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner and Drake voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF 2014 PROPOSED CERTIFIED TAX RATE / KIM M. HAFEN

Mr. Hafen said that the precise 2014 Certified Tax Rate numbers are unavailable until the State Tax Commission releases them, but he requested approval of the Commission when they are known. In November of last year, the Washington County Budget for 2014 was prepared, at which time the exact figures were unknown. In general, countywide property evaluations are up between nine (9) and ten (10) percent, which indicates that rates will fall to some extent. The revenue generated will be roughly the same, but the mill levy will be a little lower.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Drake to Approve the 2014 Proposed Certified Tax Rate, Pending Notification by the Utah State Tax Commission of the Precise Figures. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gardner and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner and Drake voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-1040-O, AN ORDINANCE REZONING A CERTAIN PORTION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY FROM OST-20 ZONE TO RE-40 ZONE HEREINAFTER FULLY DESCRIBED IN THIS ORDINANCE

Public Works Director Ron Whitehead explained that this thirteen-acre parcel of property is in Diamond Valley, and the owner wants to build one single family residence on it for right now. The adjacent properties are zoned RE-40, and re-zoning it from OST-20 to RE-40 will make it the same as those other properties.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Gardner to Adopt Ordinance No. 2014-1040-O, An Ordinance Rezoning A Certain Portion Of Washington County From OST-20 Zone To RE-40 Zone Hereinafter Fully Described In This Ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Drake and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner and Drake voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-1041-O, AN ORDINANCE REZONING A CERTAIN PORTION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY FROM A-20 ZONE TO A-5 ZONE HEREINAFTER FULLY DESCRIBED IN THIS ORDINANCE

Mr. Whitehead said that this is an isolated, triangle-shaped parcel, just under ten acres in size, in New Harmony. It doesn't meet the current ten-acre zoning requirements, and the property owner wants to build a residence on it.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Drake to Adopt Ordinance No. 2014-1041-O, An Ordinance Rezoning A Certain Portion Of Washington County From A-20 Zone To A-5 Zone Hereinafter Fully Described In This Ordinance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gardner and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner and Drake voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2014-1799, A RESOLUTION REGARDING DEFERRED COMPENSATION RETIREMENT PLAN OPTIONS OFFERED THROUGH UTAH RETIREMENT SYSTEMS, UAC, AND OTHER SOURCES (TABLED 4/1/14)

Mr. Hafen explained that current employees of Washington County have only one option for a retirement plan and personal 401k investments, through the Utah Retirement System. A number of other counties in Utah offer a second option, and this resolution would permit this other option to be available from the Utah Association of Counties.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Gardner to Adopt Resolution No. R-2014-1799, a Resolution Regarding Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan Options Offered through Utah Retirement Systems, IAC, and Other Sources. Motion seconded by Commissioner Drake and carried

by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner and Drake voting aye.

PUBLIC HEARING: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED ISSUANCE BY UTAH COUNTY OF HOSPITAL REVENUE BONDS

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Drake to Open the Public Hearing to Provide an Opportunity for Interested Individuals to Comment on the Proposed Issuance by Utah County of Hospital Revenue Bonds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gardner and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner and Drake voting aye.

Mr. Matt Dugdale with George K. Baum & Company, said that Washington County is being asked to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with other Utah counties in order to obtain a tax-exempt status for the purchase of bonds for hospital projects throughout the state. The monies generated from the bond issuance can be spent in the specific county, but that county incurs no financial obligation from the bond issuance. In Washington County, approximately eighty million dollars (\$80,000,000) is intended to be spent at Dixie Regional Medical Center.

No one came forward to comment during the public hearing.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Drake to Close the Public Hearing to Provide an Opportunity for Interested Individuals to Comment on the Proposed Issuance by Utah County of Hospital Revenue Bonds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gardner and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner and Drake voting aye.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2014-1819, A RESOLUTION CONSIDERING THE APPROVAL OF CERTAIN BONDS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT RELATED THERETO

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Gardner to Adopt Resolution No. R-2014-1819, A Resolution Considering The Approval Of Certain Bonds And Authorizing The Execution Of An Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Related Thereto. Motion seconded by Commissioner Drake and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner and Drake voting aye.

**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. R-2014-1820, A RESOLUTION
APPOINTING TRAVIS ROMNEY AS DEPUTY COUNTY CONSTABLE**

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Drake to Strike Resolution No. R-2014-1820, a Resolution Appointing Travis Romney as Deputy County Constable, from the Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gardner and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner, and Drake voting aye.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Dennis Drake announced that he will be tendering his resignation as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Washington County as of June 30, 2014; this will be his last meeting as a County Commissioner. He said he was very proud to have served on this Commission that has conducted the business of the citizens of Washington County so well for so many years. He mentioned that, beginning with January 2015, the term of Chairman Eardley will also be coming to an end, and he commended Chairman Eardley for his excellent leadership.

Chairman Eardley presented a plaque to Commissioner Drake, thanking him for his many years of service to Washington County.

PUBLIC WORKS OR ROAD BUSINESS

Mr. Whitehead said that his office works with other offices in the County – GIS, Recorder, Assessor, Planning – and has been planning future needs for data storage capability for its servers. He requested approval of the purchase of a new server and associated storage equipment for those needs. The cost will be just under twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), and a purchase order will be submitted with specific details.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Gardner to Approve the Purchase Request by the Public Works Department for a Computer Server and Associated Storage Equipment in the approximate amount of \$25,000.00, the actual Purchase Request to be Submitted at a Later Date. Motion seconded by Commissioner Drake and carried by unanimous vote, with Commissioners Eardley, Gardner, and Drake voting aye.

Mr. Whitehead further reported that the Supreme Court of the State of Utah has now approved the recording of the subdivision plats in the community of Hildale. It has been a long time since this issue was raised, but those plats will now be submitted to the County Recorder for recording.

The Public Works Department still awaits permission from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service to begin work on necessary projects in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that may or may not involve habitats that may or may not be considered critical or endangered. This is an ongoing situation that may or may not resolve itself in the near future. Specifically, any habitat that is “potentially suitable” for the Southwest Willow Flycatcher must be protected in the event that any such birds should actually move into that area, although none have as yet been discovered there.

NRCS projects to be done include the cutoff road between the Gunlock Highway and Motoqua Road and the Shem Dam project.

Mr. Whitehead expressed his gratitude and respect to Commissioner Drake for the service and leadership he has provided for the employees and citizens of Washington County.

Request a Closed Session

None.

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

CHRISTINE S. HALL
DEPUTY CLERK

JAMES J. EARDLEY
CHAIRMAN